Dear Howard, 11/5/72

Jerry's 11/1 indicates a carbon to you in his asking acknowledgement of the return of your Itek study. If you are interested in Itek and do not know its connections, you should. I think there are passages in The War Conspiracy. If not there is something I have read recently. I presume this relates to what has never interested me much except as a matter of record, their pictures stuff.

I'll not be answering Jerry. If and when I think some prodding or provoking will do him some good I might, but not when he is irrational. As you know, I'd told him I have no objection to his having a copy of my foundations file but want its literary use preserved. I objected only to his sneakiness. He admits this ("I did not specifically [sic] tell you at the time because I knew it would only antagonize you further...) and assumes that in being right I am wrong. He persists in inventing fictions that seem to comfort him and pretenses that are childish, as that if he finishes the index I'd not know or get a copy from someone other than him if not from him. His letters about that file are quite contrary to his present admissions.

Whatever he has to add he didn't think of including in what he returned, despite his proclamations of purity and cooperativeness. It would, of course, be good to have for the completeness of the file and any writing based on it. I also have much to add that is relevant but is filed under other subjects.

If he askes you later and if he does not ask me, I'd like at least one extra copy of the typed index. He is silent on my suggestion that he give you the cards. Such an index can never be complete on cards for there is always someing to add. A typed copy soon becomes a mess. I would also have some suggestions about whom would like or could use a copy. You have Mary's address. She is one of whom Jerry may not think. He should also ask Boch if he does not have Hal Verb's address. I shudder to think of anything useful getting into sick Lifton's hands.

If he ever does a Watergate and ITT index, I'd like it. We are making a rudimentary card file on WG only but are including a few things not strictly WG in it, not ITT. It will be a card on the name of the person and the date of first mention only for there really is notime for this. I believe this is the benchmark of a very bleak era ahead. And I just may see if I can do something about what seems to involve me.

I do sorrow when I see good minds and decent intentions wasted or put to counter-productive pursuits, as I regret what must be the consequence to the frustrated like Jerry. You will find him bullheaded, unyielding, and if there is a dispute inclined to self-righteousness and generally determined to go his own way. He just does not engage in dialogue and I have never seen any real self-analysis or self-criticism or willingness to consider, in advance or after the fact. If he can be reached except by expressions of force, I can recall no instance. Even in personal conduct. He craves attention and does childish things to get it, like dumping his luggage in the middle of the livingroom floor so everyone will have to be aware of it (and him). I never did completely break this up. I got his junk out of the way by moving it myself, either to where he'd sleep on onto the hearth if he were using it. He sometimes had material in with his clothing, was never organized ebough to have a separate container for it. For this reason rather than intended stealing I'll never know whether some of the stuff I can't find is mixed up in his mess.

He may have some WG stuff I don't, so I'll be glad to see his index. Although I doubt it is "dimwitted", he is right in saying that I am "taken in". By more than him. But this will not end because it is from a way of life that will not change. I don't want it to.

I don't think there is anything to be gained by your trying to reason with him about anything now. He's going to have to sweat things our for himself, learn for himself, get hurt more on his own -learn the harder way for a while - before, if ever, he sits down and tries to sort things out and put his head together. Meanwhile, I better off for the increased detachment, from him and especially Gary and Sylvia, neither of whom have responded to what I've sent you. I'm content. I've met my obligations as I see them. Of course I'm not content about what I interpret this to mean about them. But about that I can do nothing more.

I've veeb staying too busy on what is essentially non-productive but necessary, going over things for the Ray writ repeatedly. For the moment I have that cleaned up. Until there are more drafts and perhaps a hassle with Bud to straighten him up. He will blow this is he doesn't. I have written him an understated letter he will find exaggerated but I've not read it. I'm hoping -il will find time and intestinal tolerance. Best regards,